



# A STUDY ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS OF SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN RELATION TO GENDER, LOCALE OF STUDY AND MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION

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## ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study is to assess the environmental awareness of secondary school students in relation to gender, locale of study and medium of instruction. Survey method of research has been used in the present study. "Environmental Awareness Ability Scale (EAAS)" constructed and standardized by Dr. Praveen Kumar Jha (1998) was used for collecting data and checking awareness towards environment of secondary school students. For this research study a sample of one hundred and fifty eight secondary school students were randomly selected in and around Murshidabad district of West Bengal by the investigator. The data was analyzed using mean, standard deviation and 't'- test. The research paper bring to light that the Boys students and Girls' students do differ significantly in their environmental awareness. The study uncover that the Urban students have significantly more environmental awareness as compared to their rural counterparts. The research paper also bring to light that the Bengali medium students awareness greater than English medium students.

**KEY WORDS:** Environmental Awareness, Students, Gender, Locale of Study, Medium of Instruction, Environmental Attitude, Environmental Sensitivity.

## INTRODUCTION:

*"The Earth provides enough to satisfy everyman's need, but not everyman's greed."*

- Mahatma Gandhi.

Every year 5<sup>th</sup> June is observed as 'World Environment Day' in order to emphasize the importance of 'Environment' in our lives and also to promote 'Environmental awareness' among all across the world, so that the people from all walks of life come together and hence understanding their responsibility must take collaborative, planned and substantial effort all across the world for ensuring a clean, green and healthy environment for themselves and future generation.

Now-a-days many activities done by human being like building construction, water exploitation, urbanization, throughout the waste materials, smoke of mill factories make damage to environment in a large scale. Now a days we are not thinking about the impact of these activities done by us against a natural environment. On the other hand environment is a highly concerned area in terms of environmental pollution and sustainable development. Due to population explosion as well as industrialization, the environmental problem like pollution, global warming, acid rain, ozone layer depletion, greenhouse effect etc. have been increase day by day. That is why protection of environment has now become a challenging problem in front of the modern citizen.

This awareness regarding the need to protect the environment has to start academically at the school level through the educational process, just as addition and subtraction are essential skills needed for all persons, as part of the daily living skills required for a human being to survive in modern society.

The need of environmental education is to educate the people of all ages on environment for making decisions which are compatible to environment. Environmental Education is a necessary tool for making appropriate decisions concerning the solution and prevention of environmental problems.

Bhattacharya (1999) revealed that female students were comparatively more aware than male students but found no significant difference in the awareness of science and non science higher secondary school students.

Behal and Bharadwaj (2011) found that there is no significant difference in environmental awareness and attitude of college going boys and girls and that science students were more aware as well as have positive attitude towards environment than non science ones.

Prateek (1998), Mondal and Mete (2010) found that urban students showed higher cognitive level of awareness with respect to rural students while male and female students were at par.

Tuohini (2001) showed that the environmental awareness of boys and girls was somewhat similar.

Analyzing the above research studies some question arises in the mind of investigator :-

1. Is there any significant difference in the environmental awareness among male and female secondary school students in Murshidabad ?
2. Is there any significant difference in the environmental awareness among rural and urban secondary school students in Murshidabad ?
3. Is there any significant difference in the environmental awareness among Bengali and English medium secondary school students in Murshidabad ?

Investigator have tried out to find the answer of the above questions. Therefore the present study is an attempt to know "A Study on the Environmental Awareness of Secondary School Students in Relation to Gender, Locale of Study and Medium of Instruction."

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

This study is carried out to analyze environmental awareness of Secondary School Students in relation to Gender, Locale of Study and Medium of Instruction in Murshidabad district of West Bengal.

1. To study the levels of environmental awareness of secondary school students of West Bengal.
2. To study the environmental awareness of male and female secondary school students of West Bengal.
3. To study the environmental awareness of rural and urban secondary school students of West Bengal.
4. To study the environmental awareness of students studying in Bengali and English medium schools of West Bengal.

## HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY:

In view of the above objectives, following hypotheses have been formulated:

1. There is no significant difference level in the environmental awareness among the male and female secondary school students of West Bengal.
2. There is no significant difference level in the environmental awareness among the rural and urban secondary school students of West Bengal.
3. There is no significant difference level in the environmental awareness among Bengali and English medium secondary school students of West Bengal.

## METHODOLOGY:

### Method and Procedure of the study:

In the nature of the study, the descriptive survey method of educational research is adopted for the completion of the present study. It has undoubtedly true that the descriptive survey method has been the most popular and most widely used research method in education.

**Population:**

Population of the study covers secondary school students at Berhampore Sadar, Jangipur and Kandi sub-division in Murshidabad district of West Bengal.

**Sample:**

For the present study a sample of 158 secondary school students was selected. Out of which 89 were male secondary school students, 69 were female secondary school students, 86 were rural secondary school students, 72 were urban secondary school students, 63 were Bengali medium secondary school students and 95 were English medium secondary school students.

**Tools for data collection:**

"Environmental Awareness Ability Scale (EAAS)" was used on randomly selected 158 secondary school students of Murshidabad district. The inventory included sources of environmental awareness through the questionnaire which was related to personal opinion details of secondary school students. All the closed-ended questions were designed to generate responses on a five point likert

scale to measure the environmental awareness indicated as 1 strongly disagree, 2 disagree, 3 no opinion, 4 agree, 5 strongly agree.

**Statistical Techniques Used:**

For analyzing and interpretations the data Mean, Standard Deviation (SD), t-test have been computed.

**RESULT AND DISCUSSION:**

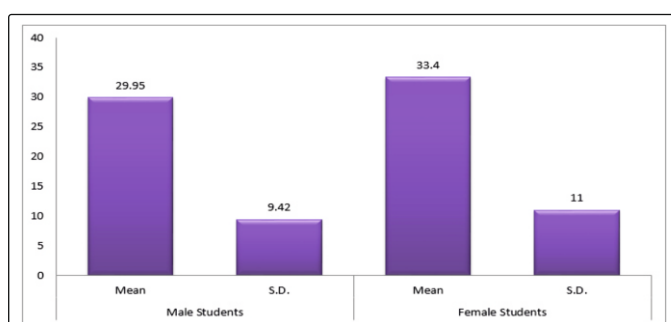
In order to measure the environmental awareness among the secondary school students in relation to gender, locale of study and medium of instruction. "Environmental Awareness Ability Scale (EAAS)" was used on selected sample students and t-value was computed. The detail analysis is given as per hypothesis.

**Hypothesis 1:**

There is no significant difference level in the environmental awareness among the male and female secondary school students of West Bengal.

**Table No.1: Levels of environmental awareness among the male and female secondary school students**

Gender	N	Mean	S.D.	t-value	Degree of freedom	p-value	Level of significance	Result
Male Students	89	29.95	9.42	2.08	1000	2.58 at 0.01 & 1.96 at 0.05 level	At 0.01 & 0.05 level	Not Significant at 0.01 level & Significant at 0.05 level
Female Students	69	33.40	11.0					



**Figure 1: Levels of environmental awareness among the male and female secondary school students**

The result in table no. 1 and figure 1, the calculated 't'-value is 2.08 less than the table value (2.58) at 0.01 level and greater than the table value (1.96) at 0.05 level of significance. It is found that there exists a significant difference in the level of environmental awareness among the male and female secondary school students at 0.05 level of significance and there is no significant difference in the level of environmental awareness among the male and female secondary school students at 0.01 level of significance.

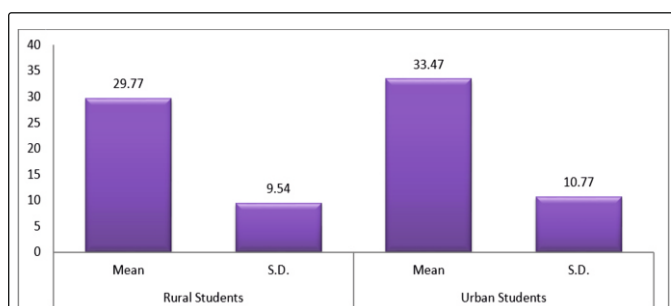
The mean score of female students (33.40) is greater than the mean score of male students (29.95). It is inferred that the female students have higher awareness than male students regarding the environment. Hence the null hypothesis Ho1 is rejected.

**Hypothesis 2:**

There is no significant difference level in the environmental awareness among the rural and urban secondary school students of West Bengal.

**Table No.2: Levels of environmental awareness among the rural and urban secondary school students**

Locale of Study	N	Mean	S.D.	t-value	Degree of freedom	p-value	Level of significance	Result
Rural Students	86	29.77	9.54	2.26	1000	2.58 at 0.01 & 1.96 at 0.05 level	At 0.01 & 0.05 level	Not Significant at 0.01 level & Significant at 0.05 level
Urban Students	72	33.47	10.77					



**Figure 2: Levels of environmental awareness among the rural and urban secondary school students**

The result in table no. 2 and figure 2, the calculated 't'-value is 2.26 less than the table value (2.58) at 0.01 level and greater than the table value (1.96) at 0.05 level of significance. It is found that there exists a significant difference in the level of environmental awareness among the rural and urban secondary school students at 0.05 level of significance and there is no significant difference in the level of environmental awareness among the rural and urban secondary school students at 0.01 level of significance.

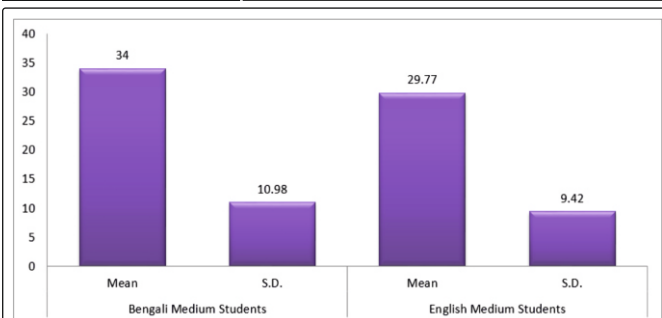
The mean score of urban students (33.47) is greater than the mean score of rural students (29.77). It is inferred that the urban students have higher awareness than rural students regarding the environment. Hence the null hypothesis Ho2 is rejected.

**Hypothesis 3:**

There is no significant difference level in the environmental awareness among Bengali and English medium secondary school students of West Bengal.

**Table No.3: Levels of environmental awareness among Bengali and English medium secondary school students**

Medium of instruction	N	Mean	S.D.	t-value	Degree of freedom	p-value	Level of significance	Result
Bengali Medium Students	63	34.0	10.98	2.50	1000	2.58 at 0.01 & 1.96 at 0.05 level	At 0.01 & 0.05 level	Not Significant at 0.01 level & Significant at 0.05 level
English Medium Students	95	29.77	9.42					



**Figure 3: Levels of environmental awareness among Bengali and English medium secondary school students**

The result in table no. 3 and figure 3, the calculated 't'-value is 2.50 less than the table value (2.58) at 0.01 level and greater than the table value (1.96) at 0.05 level of significance. It is found that there exists a significant difference in the level of environmental awareness among the Bengali and English medium secondary school students at 0.05 level of significance and there is no significant difference in the level of environmental awareness among the Bengali and English medium secondary school students at 0.01 level of significance.

The mean score of Bengali medium students (34.00) is greater than the mean score of English medium students (29.77). It is inferred that the Bengali medium students have higher awareness than English medium students regarding the environment. Hence the null hypothesis  $H_03$  is rejected.

#### CONCLUSION:

In the present study level of environmental awareness is seen among secondary school students in relation to their gender, locale of study and medium of instruction. Significant relationship between the variables have been observed. It is observed that female secondary school students, urban secondary school students and Bengali medium secondary school students are more aware environmentally. Female secondary school students from cities having Bengali medium background showed most awareness about environment than rest of the group.

Keeping in view the increasing threat on the sustainability of environment we need to find some strategies to put a break on further deterioration of natural resources.

- Introducing Environmental Science as a compulsory subject in school level.
- Organizing orientation and refresher programmes for in service teachers, exclusively on environmental education at regular intervals.
- Forming "Eco Club" in schools and organizing programmes to observe days like Environment awareness day, Forest day, Conservation day, wildlife week etc.
- Unplanned urbanization is a big problem in polluting the environment. Hence a proper planning of sewage, parking and plantation should be made before construction of any society.
- Working with the media: The print, broadcast and internet media can be a powerful ally in educating the public on environmental matters. Newspaper, television, radio and magazines can be used to quickly reach large number of people due to the fact that these are the most widely and frequently used modern mass media.

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